

**WESTMINSTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
May 27, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Westminster Traffic Commission was called to order by Chairman Tracy on Tuesday, May 27, 2008, at 5:30 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Boulevard, Westminster, California.

SALUTE TO FLAG

Commissioner Lopez led the members of the audience in the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Tracy, Diep, Crozier, Lopez
Commissioners Absent: Tran

STAFF PRESENT

Adolfo Ozaeta, Civil Engineering Associate; Sgt. Mark Nye, Westminster Police Department; Veronica Johnson, Secretary

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

The minutes of the Traffic Commission's regular meetings of April 29, 2008, were approved (4-0) with Commissioner Tran being absent.

Chairman Tracy deferred T.C. 78-112 to later in the meeting at Mr. Ozaeta's request, to allow more time for people to arrive at the meeting.

**ITEMS TO BE
CONSIDERED**

The first item to be considered at this evening's meeting was T.C. 76-154, request to install parking restrictions on the west side of Brookhurst Street, south of Bishop Place.

**T.C. 76-154
Brookhurst south of Bishop**

Using exhibit A, Mr. Ozaeta explained the layout of the vicinity to the Traffic Commission, mentioning that there are three lanes of traffic in each direction along Brookhurst. Mr. Ozaeta explained to the Commission that staff had received a written request from Mr. Can Tang, Westminster Investment LLC, to investigate sight visibility concerns at the main driveway of Seafood World, 15355 Brookhurst Street.

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that this section of roadway sees a high number of parked heavy duty trucks and vehicles, as well as high speeds across three lanes of traffic. There is enough on-site parking whereas if parking were eliminated, businesses in the area would not be impacted. Notification letters were sent regarding the Traffic

Commission meeting to those in the area, especially on the west side of Brookhurst.

Mr. Ozaeta explained to the Commission that a five second corner sight distance analysis was done at the subject area. The analysis identifies the number of parking spaces that need to be removed so the subject vehicle has five seconds of time to identify an approaching vehicle in order to continue and safely perform the turn maneuver. The analysis revealed that 155 feet of parking restrictions to the north and 18 feet to the south of the subject driveway would be needed to achieve the five second corner sight distance.

Sgt. Nye explained to the Commission that he had received numerous complaints over the last several months from business owners and patrons regarding exiting the subject driveway. The speed limit on Brookhurst is 45 miles per hour and vehicles are traveling well beyond 45 miles per hour. Vehicles exiting the parking lot must traverse three lanes of traffic in order to make a left hand turn. In addition to the traffic, vehicles have to contend with the large commercial trucks that are parked there on a daily basis. Officers have been in the area daily citing the trucks. Sgt. Nye stated that officers were citing the same trucks over and over again because it is less expensive to pay the fine than to store the vehicle. His concerns were for the vehicles exiting the driveway, reducing the risk of an accident and alleviating the problem with the commercial trucks.

Mr. Ozaeta stated that the purpose for the installation of the subject parking restrictions is for enhanced visibility. The parking restrictions are not expected to impact the community or affect business because there is sufficient on-site parking available.

STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION

Staff's recommendation was to approve the installation of parking restrictions on the west side of Brookhurst Street for a distance of 155 feet to the north and 18 feet to the south of the driveway at 15355 Brookhurst Street (Seafood World).

Chairman Tracy opened this item up for discussion.

Ms. Miriam Warne, 10200 Bolsa Avenue, stated she owned the property at the corner of Brookhurst and Bishop. Ms. Warne stated that she was in favor of the proposed parking restrictions because she was concerned over the trucks parking in the area which impede the visibility of drivers exiting the driveway. Ms. Warne would like to see parking

limited or eliminated in the area and have the parking restrictions extended to her property. Mr. Ozaeta reminded the Commissioners that they could recommend extending the parking restrictions if they felt it was necessary.

Mr. Can Tang, Westminster Investment LLC, spoke in favor of the proposed parking restrictions. Mr. Tang mentioned that he was the property manager at 15355 Brookhurst Street and he had been addressing the problem with the parking of commercial vehicles with the Police Department for the last year. Mr. Tang has received many complaints from his tenants as well as patrons because of the reduced visibility exiting the driveway. In response to Chairman Tracy's question, Mr. Tang told the Commission that tour buses do park on the street. When Mr. Tang has complained, he was told by the Traffic Supervisor that vehicles cannot be towed until after 30 days. Mr. Tang was told to write a letter to the City to request parking restrictions.

Sgt. Nye clarified for the Commission that in order to tow a vehicle, the vehicle has to have five unpaid parking citations or be parked for more than 72 hours. Sgt. Nye stated that the Police Department is ticketing the vehicles daily and the drivers are paying the parking citations. In response to Chairman Tracy's question, Sgt. Nye explained that there are not many cars that park in the subject area because the parking lot on-site is sufficient and cars are not the problem because drivers can see over the cars as opposed to the large commercial trucks.

Sgt. Nye mentioned that the City of Fountain Valley had recently enacted an ordinance prohibiting the parking of commercial vehicles anywhere in their city and subsequently the vehicles are now parking in Westminster. In response to Commissioner Lopez's question, Sgt. Nye told the Commission that most of the trucks are privately owned.

Commissioner Crozier suggested that since there is sufficient on-site parking, the parking restrictions should be extended to Bishop Place. Discussion ensued over the extent of the proposed parking restrictions.

Sgt. Nye mentioned that the east side of the street consisted of apartment complexes, condo developments, and a senior center. Parking on the east side is taken up by residents. It would be more difficult for a commercial vehicle to maneuver into a parking spot there as opposed to the subject location where vehicles are parking in the parking lot and there is

ample room for the commercial vehicles to park on the street.

Mr. Ozaeta mentioned that the City of Huntington Beach has broken up long segments of parking by painting red curb for five feet in between 16-18 foot segments which would allow two cars to park but prohibit the parking of large commercial trucks.

Motion

Commissioner Crozier moved to install parking restrictions to Bishop Place. Commissioner Lopez asked Sgt. Nye if staff's proposed parking restrictions would help with the problem. Sgt. Nye responded yes. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion but amended it to approve staff's recommendation of installing parking restrictions west side of Brookhurst Street for a distance of 155 feet to the north and 18 feet to the south of the driveway at 15355 Brookhurst Street (Seafood World) and revisit the area in three months.

Vote

The motion carried by a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Tran being absent.

The second item to be considered at this evening's meeting was T.C. 78-112, request to rescind parking restrictions on La Pat Place between Humboldt Street and Westminster Boulevard.

***T.C. 78-112
La Pat Place between
Humboldt St. & Westminster
Blvd.***

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Traffic Commission that staff had received a written request from Ms. Vivian Kirkpatrick-Pilger and Ms. Earlene Whittington to rescind the parking restrictions on La Pat Place. Mr. Ozaeta explained that observations of the area revealed that the segments on Humboldt Street and on La Pat Place north of Humboldt Street are heavily congested due to the current parking restrictions. A reason for the congestion is that the residents of La Pat Place park to the north since they cannot park on their street.

Mr. Ozaeta reminded the Traffic Commission that this area was addressed in 1992, and last year some of the congestion on Humboldt Street was mitigated by providing timed parking restrictions. Mr. Ozaeta explained the history which resulted in the subject parking restrictions. Reasons included the sale and use of narcotics, traffic collisions, and sight visibility. The Mayor and City Council approved the

parking restrictions in 1992 and since then, traffic collisions have been reduced by 90%.

Mr. Ozaeta clarified for the Traffic Commission that even though the Community Services Recreational Van closes the street three days a week for six weeks during the summer, it had no effect on the installation of the subject parking restrictions.

Mr. Ozaeta then explained to the Traffic Commission that in February 2008, the Traffic Commission approved the installation of timed parking restrictions, Monday through Friday, 7:30am-3:00pm, on the north side of Humboldt Street between Edwards Street and La Pat Place. These parking restrictions were installed as a result of congestion from the pick-up and drop-off of students and street vendors in the area. The parking restrictions alleviate the safety problems during the day, but it remains congested after 3:00pm because of the parking restrictions on La Pat Place.

Chairman Tracy questioned if there was ample parking for the buildings on La Pat Place. Mr. Ozaeta responded that in 1992, staff assessed the parking situation on La Pat Place and found that when needed, such as on street sweeping days, people found parking for their vehicles. Mr. Ozaeta informed the Traffic Commission that along with the denial of the request to rescind the parking restrictions, staff was requesting permission to send a letter to the property owners informing them of the importance of providing on-site parking a few months prior to sending the City's Code Enforcement Division to the area. Using carports for the storage of personal items rather than vehicles is enforceable by Code Enforcement.

Discussion ensued over how the Code Enforcement Division would be able to access the gated communities and how the determination is made whether a vehicle is being stored or not.

Mr. Ozaeta mentioned that he had received five phone calls regarding this matter; two would like the parking restrictions rescinded. The United States Postal Service called to support the denial of the request to rescind the parking restrictions.

Sgt. Nye added that safety is the number one priority of the Police Department. As a member of the gang unit, Sgt. Nye responded to numerous calls before and after the parking restrictions. He did notice that the parking restrictions, along

with heavy enforcement, helped clean up the area. It is now a very clean street without the abandoned cars, safer for the pedestrians and vehicles coming and going, as well as being safer for his officers responding to calls because there are not vehicles for people to conceal their illegal activities behind. The majority of calls have dropped significantly since the parking restrictions were installed.

STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION

Staff's recommendation was to deny the request to rescind the parking restrictions on La Pat Place between Humboldt Street and Westminster Boulevard.

Chairman Tracy opened this item up for discussion.

Vivian Kirkpatrick-Pilger spoke on the subject item. Ms. Kirkpatrick-Pilger wanted to clarify that neither she nor her sister, Ms. Earlene Whittington, requested that the parking restrictions on La Pat Place be removed. The issue they wanted addressed was the overflow parking that has moved from La Pat Place onto Humboldt Street. She would like to see temporary red curb on Humboldt Street which would hopefully require drivers to clear out their garages and park where they are supposed to be parking, reduce the number of vehicles they own, or move to a place that has adequate parking for them.

Ms. Kirkpatrick-Pilger would not like to see the parking restrictions rescinded. Ms. Kirkpatrick-Pilger also mentioned that she did not support the closing of La Pat Place for the recreation van because the children should not be playing in the street but at the numerous parks in the City.

Ms. Earlene Whittington, 6821 Tillamook Avenue, also voiced her support for the parking restrictions on La Pat Place and would like to see something done about the parking on Humboldt Street. Ms. Whittington mentioned her concern over the traffic on Humboldt Street and the fear that children will dart out from the parked cars and be hurt.

Joseph Dinh, 13767 and 13955 La Pat Place, voiced his opposition to rescinding the parking restrictions. Mr. Dinh's reasons included that there were many accidents, gang activity and drug sales before the parking restrictions. He also agreed with the previous two speakers about the parking on Humboldt Street. When questioned by Mr. Ozaeta about the parking on his property, Mr. Dinh responded that there was sufficient parking in the garages and on his property.

Dawny Castillo, 13826 La Pat Place #09, was in opposition to rescinding the parking restrictions. Ms. Castillo mentioned the safety of the children. In regards to parking on Humboldt Street, Ms. Castillo said that people had no other choice than to park on Humboldt Street. She mentioned that even though the parking restrictions are inconvenient, it is better for the community. Ms. Castillo also voiced her support for the recreation van that comes to La Pat Place.

Miguel Zarate, 13852 La Pat Place, voiced his opposition to the rescinding of the parking restrictions. Mr. Zarate mentioned that with the parking restrictions, the street is cleaner and there is less illegal activity. When questioned about the parking on his property, he responded that there were two parking spaces per tenant on the property.

Commissioner Crozier questioned whether Johnson and Finley schools had pick-up and drop-off locations. Mr. Ozaeta responded that even though they do, people prefer to park and wait on Humboldt Street to pick-up and drop-off their students. Staff will try to get the word out to parents about the suggested routes to school and pick-up and drop-off locations.

Vice Chairman Diep mentioned that the only action the Commission could do is approve staff's recommendation to deny the request, especially since Ms. Kirkpatrick-Pilger did not want the parking restrictions rescinded. Staff should work with Ms. Kirkpatrick-Pilger to find a solution for Humboldt Street. Discussion ensued over Humboldt Street and that it would have to be brought back to the Commission at a future date.

MOTION

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Diep to approve staff's recommendation to deny the request to rescind the parking restrictions on La Pat Place between Humboldt Street and Westminster Boulevard; seconded by Chairman Tracy.

VOTE

The motion carried by a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Tran being absent.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Tracy asked what could be done on Humboldt Street. Mr. Ozaeta clarified how the request to rescind parking restrictions on La Pat Place came to be. The emails from Ms. Kirkpatrick-Pilger and Ms. Whittington went to the Mayor, Police Chief Andy Hall, and Public Works Director

Marwan Youssef. Mr. Ozaeta was asked to look into rescinding the parking restrictions on La Pat Place because that is the only way to alleviate the parking problem on Humboldt Street. The issue is the parking supply, unless more parking is created, the motorists will just keep moving to other locations to park.

Mr. Ozaeta mentioned that 35 spaces could be created on one side of La Pat Place, but it might bring the previous issues back. Chairman Tracy mentioned that Code Enforcement could ensure that parking areas are being used to park vehicles.

Vice Chairman Diep agreed that the only way to alleviate the parking on Humboldt Street is to allow parking on La Pat Place. Resident permit parking was suggested, which will be discussed at the staff's next Traffic Committee meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no "Old Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

There were no "Information and Reports" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Vivian Kirkpatrick-Pilger suggested a "Keep Clear" at Goldenwest Street and Homer because of the traffic in the morning. Ms. Kirkpatrick-Pilger mentioned that Seal Beach does allow permit parking for residents only in certain areas, and on Edwards, the apartment owner will be installing stack parking which may also work for La Pat Place, along with temporary red curb and the clearing of garages.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

There were no "Written Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

ITEMS COMMISSIONERS/ STAFF MAY WISH TO DISCUSS

Vice Chairman Diep mentioned that the commercial trucks have returned to Brookhurst and Hazard. Vice Chairman Diep suggested banning commercial trucks in the City. Mr. Ozaeta and Sgt. Nye explained that there is the possibility of increasing the fines for commercial vehicles, which may alleviate the problem. It was brought up that some of the drivers of the commercial vehicles are residents of Westminster.

Mr. Ozaeta gave an update on the Go Local Project.

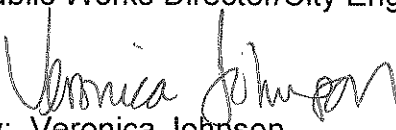
A change in the meeting time of the Traffic Commission was discussed. It was tabled until Commissioner Tran returned.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marwan Youssef
Public Works Director/City Engineer


By: Veronica Johnson
Secretary